



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

Massachusetts Interagency Restraint and Seclusion Prevention Initiative Member Agencies:

Executive Office of Health & Human Services:

Department of Children and Families (DCF)
24 Farnsworth Street
Boston, MA 02210

Department of Mental Health (DMH)
25 Staniford Street
Boston, MA 02114

Department of Youth Services (DYS)
Tower Point
27 Wormwood Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02210

Executive Office of Education:

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE)
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)
51 Sleeper Street
Boston, MA 02210

Charter

The Commonwealth is committed to serving youth and families in the most respectful manner possible and strives to ensure that treatment and educational settings employ behavior support methods that reflect current knowledge about the developmental impacts of early traumatic experiences. To that end, the Departments of Children and Families, Mental Health, Early Education and Care, Elementary and Secondary Education and Youth Services are working together, in partnership with providers, advocates, educators, schools, families and youth, to focus on preventing and reducing the use of behavior restrictions that can be re-traumatizing, in particular the use of restraint and seclusion.

Vision

All youth serving educational and treatment settings will use trauma informed, positive behavioral support practices that respectfully engage families and youth.

Guiding Principles

The work of this *Initiative* will be guided by the following principles:

- Safety for staff and children is the first priority and informs all practice and policy considerations.
- Public and private agencies are partnering together and with youth and their families in this work. Each entity brings assets to the effort that has equal importance to the success of the initiative.
- Providing training and technical support opportunities is a shared responsibility of all partners in the initiative.
- All levels of the system must be afforded reasonable time and opportunities to make the changes required by any revisions of state agency regulations or policies.
- Data, research, practice wisdom and a framework of Continuous Quality Improvement informs all practice and policy changes to be implemented as a result of this *Initiative*.
- Recommendations and strategies implemented will focus on ensuring the sustainability of change over time.

Support for this initiative provided by Casey Family Programs (www.casey.org) and the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH)

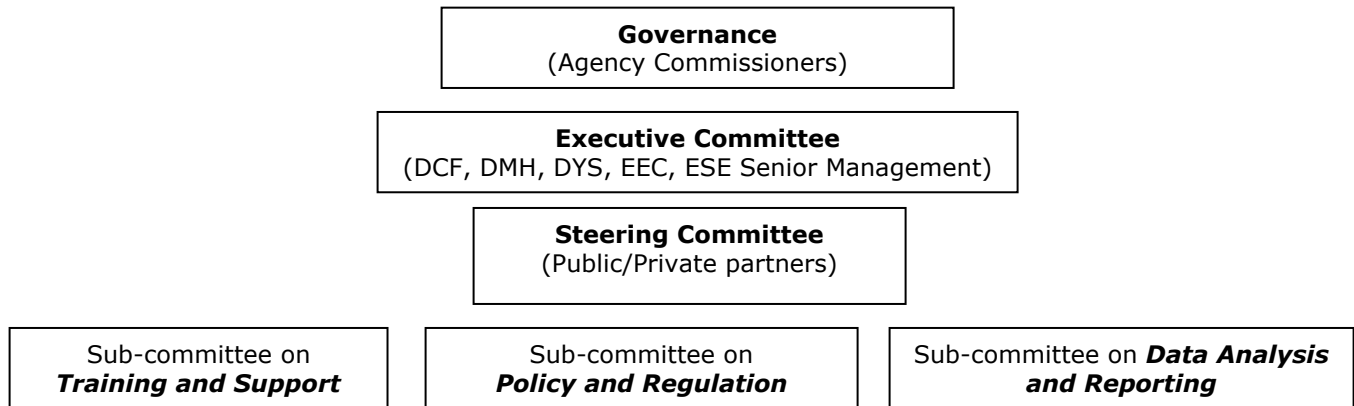
Overall Goals: 2009-2012

1. Increase the number of settings that have implemented an organizational change strategy that promotes a culture of non-violence and utilizes best practice models, including evidence-based positive behavioral support practices.
2. Align and coordinate state-wide policies and regulations regarding the use of restraint and seclusion which reflect the intent and principles of this initiative.
3. Decrease the incidents of restraint and seclusion for youth served in all educational and treatment settings.
4. Increase the extent to which programs and schools involve families in the development and ongoing review of behavioral support policies and practices.
5. Provide resources and training for providers to increase their capacity to prevent and reduce the use of restraint and seclusion.
6. Improve the educational and permanency outcomes for children being served by all Interagency Initiative partners.

Phase One Objectives: September 1, 2009 – December 31, 2010 (Research, Analysis and Option Development)

1. Analyze existing data systems for tracking prevalence of restraint and seclusion practices at all levels of the system; establish reduction targets; develop recommendations for a data analysis and reporting system that can track current and on-going use of restraint and seclusion, efforts taken to reduce the use of restraint and seclusion, and other indicators of well-being and permanency.
2. Conduct a baseline assessment of the current status of schools and programs in developing and/or implementing an organizational change strategy that promotes a culture of non-violence and utilizes evidence-based positive behavioral support practices, and the extent to which youth and families have been involved in this organizational change.
3. Compile and analyze all existing policies and regulations governing seclusion and restraint; develop common definitions; review other state policies and regulations.
4. Deliver training and technical support on strategies for implementing culture change to all interested provider agencies and school systems across the state.
5. Deliver intensive training and technical support for up to 30 congregate care programs on specific positive behavioral support practices that are associated with improved placement stability; measure and track impact.
6. Create ongoing opportunities for providers to exchange information on practice strategies through community forums and technology enabled forums.
7. Identify and establish positive outcome/success measures expected – for children, families, programs, schools, and state agencies -- as a result of implementation of this *Initiative*.
8. Identify and coordinate Initiative strategies with similar or related state efforts to improve behavioral health outcomes for children and youth including but not limited to the ***Child Behavioral Health and Public Schools Task Force***.
9. Develop goals and objectives for **Phase Two** of *Initiative*.

Organizational Structure/ Roles and Responsibilities



Governance: Commissioners of the State Agencies

- Establishes vision and overall direction for the initiative.
- Approves all major policy recommendations.
- Provides institutional and political support.
- Provides necessary resources to carry out the initiative.

Executive Committee: Asst Commissioners and Senior Directors of State Agencies

- Sets priorities for the Steering Committee.
- Keeps the Governance Board updated on the status of the initiative and brings recommendations of the Steering Committee to the Board for approval.
- Makes decisions that do not require Governance Board approval.
- Provides resources to the Steering Committee to enable it to carry out its work.
- Ensures that the initiative remains within the scope of its charter.
- Prepares articles/communication about the Massachusetts Interagency Restraint and Seclusion Prevention Initiative for publication.

Steering Committee: Representatives of State Agencies, Provider Agencies, Consumers and Advocates

- Develops a strategic plan to accomplish the overall objectives of the initiative.
- Provides recommendations to the Executive Committee on objectives, activities and metrics for the initiative.
- Reviews and provides commentary on data collected for the initiative
- Develops and implements a communication plan to inform all stakeholders of the work of the Steering Committee.

Sub-Committee on Training and Support:

- Develops a training and technical support plan for providers and other stakeholders.
- Develops a compendium of positive behavioral support practice literature.
- Develops and promotes strategies for helping programs to involve and engage families.

Sub-Committee on Policy and Regulation:

- Reviews policies and regulations of Massachusetts and other states governing behavior management practices and protocols, and family engagement requirements.
- Makes recommendations on revisions to existing Massachusetts policies and regulations.

Sub-Committee on Data Analysis and Reporting

- Reviews current systems for collecting relevant data
- Undertakes preliminary analysis of data and provides high level reports to the Steering Committee.
- Makes recommendations on indicators/key measures to be collected, analyzed and reported.
- Makes recommendations on periodicity of reports.